

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated *C. elegans* gene the transcription of which is modulated by cadmium.
2. An isolated *C. elegans* mRNA encoded by the gene according to claim 1.
3. An isolated *C. elegans* protein the level expression of which is modulated by cadmium.
4. A *C. elegans* the genome of which has been engineered to include a cadmium-responsive gene.

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